

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05845 01 OF 02 240756Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----012751 240801Z /11  
O 231351Z FEB 78 VOL ZDK DUE TO NUMEROUS SVCS  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5862  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
UQMNS/AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY 1083  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 05845

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR SO ET UNSC OAU EG  
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN/SOMALI DISPUTE--TALK WITH MINSTATE  
BOUTROS GHALI

REF: (A) LAGOS 2181, (B) CAIRO 5536 (NOTAL), (C) STATE  
44130 (NOTAL), (D) CAIRO 5450 (NOTAL), (E) STATE 44072  
SECRET

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(NOTAL)

1. MET TODAY WITH MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI (FONMIN KAMEL  
RETURNED YESTERDAY) TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS,  
REFERENCE SUBJECT: GHALI HAD SPENT PAST FOUR DAYS ALMOST  
EXCLUSIVELY PREOCCUPIED WITH CYPRUS AFFAIRS.

2. RECALLING OUR LAST DISCUSSION OF HORN OF AFRICA SITUATION, I BROUGHT GHALI UP TO DATE ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GARBA, SOVIETS, MENGISTU AND SOMALI LEADERS BASED ON REFTELS. TOLD HIM WE CONTINUE TO FAVOR UNSC RESOLUTION ALONG LINES I HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH HIM. SAID DEPT HAD FOUND HIS COMMENTS ON OUR DRAFT "ELEMENTS" OF A RESOLUTION VERY HELPFUL AND, WHILE RECOGNIZING HE HAD BEEN OTHERWISE ENGAGED IN LAST FEW DAYS, I WONDERED IF HE HAD ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT.

3. GHALI SAID HE HAD MET WITH SOMALI FONMIN ABDUL RAHMAN BARRE DURING LATTER'S VISIT. HIS TWO-HOUR TALK WITH BARRE HAD BEEN DISCOURAGING. BARRE HAD TALKED ABOUT US/USSR GREAT POWER COLLUSION FORCE SOMALIA TO ACQUIESCE IN THEIR DEMANDS. SOMALIA WOULD NEVER WITHDRAW FROM THE OGADEN, WHICH IS ETHNIC SOMALI TERRITORY. IT WAS PREPARED TO FIGHT TO THE END TO PREVENT ETHIOPIAN RECOVERY OF THE OGADEN, EVEN IF IT MEANT THE COLLAPSE OF THE SIAD BARRE GOVERNMENT. BARRE SHOWED LITTLE SIGN OF ANY GIVE IN THE SOMALI POSITION AND HAD SHOWN NO APPRECIATION OF THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION. INSTEAD, HE HAD INSISTED THAT SOMALI FORCES ARE COUNTERATTACKING AND INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE ETHIOPIANS. (GHALI'S ACCOUNT OF FONMIN BARRE'S POSITION DIFFERS MARKEDLY FROM THAT GIVEN US EARLIER BY AL BAZ (REF B).

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4. ON UNSC RESOLUTION, GHALI SAID THAT EGYPTIAN SOUNDINGS OF OTHER AFRICAN STATES SUGGEST A GENERALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE IDEA. (HE STRESSED HE WAS NOT SPEAKING OF THE CONTENTS.) THERE ARE TWO REASONS FOR THIS NEGATIVISM: FIRST, AFRICANS TEND TO VIEW THE IDEA AS ACADEMIC SINCE THE SOVIETS IN THE END HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO VETO IT WHETHER THEY NOW SAY THEY WILL OR WILL NOT DO SO. SECOND, AFRICAN STATES REGARD THE IDEA AS A DEROGATION OF THEIR OWN AGREED-UPON RESPONSIBILITY THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS WILL BE RESOLVED BY AFRICAN STATES. GHALI THOUGHT THAT EVEN IF AFRICANS SPONSOR RESOLUTION, THIS FEELING OF AFRICAN HUMILIATION OVER INABILITY TO SETTLE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS WILL CONTINUE. HE WAS NEVERTHELESS INTERESTED IN HEARING THAT THE NIGERIANS SEEM TO BE SHOWING SLIGHT INTEREST IN THE IDEA OF A UNSC RESOLUTION AND THOUGHT IT WISE TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE NIGERIANS IN DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO PUSH FOR A UNSC RESOLUTION. HE COUNSELED GOING ALONG WITH GARBA'S DESIRE TO TRY TO GET SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN REPRESENTATIVES TOGETHER IN LAGOS BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO TRY FOR A UNSC RESOLUTION.

5. ASKED IF THIS REPRESENTED OFFICIAL GOE POSITION, GHALI SAID IT DID NOT. THE OFFICIAL GOE POSITION AT THE MOMENT IS ONE OF "WAIT AND SEE." FOLLOWING THE RECENT KENYAN INCIDENT, GOE HAS STOPPED FOR THE TIME BEING SENDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. IT IS ANSWERING ALMOST DAILY SOMALI APPEALS FOR EQUIPMENT BY INDICATING LOGISTIC PROBLEMS. HE OPINED THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS GOE POSI-

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----130555 240802Z /11

O 231351Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5863  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY  
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 05845

EXDIS

TION ON A UNSC RESOLUTION WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT  
THE SOMALIS AGREE. HIS LAST INFORMATION WAS THAT THEY  
OPPOSE IT. HE DOUBTED THAT SADAT WILL WANT TO DO ANYTHING

DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO SIAD BARRE'S DESIRES, BUT  
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THIS SPECIFIC  
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SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT SADAT.

6. GHALI HAD HAD A REPORT FROM THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR  
IN ADDIS ABOUT THE AARON MISSION. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR  
HAD LAUDED THE MISSION AND DESCRIBED IT AS A USEFUL  
EXERCISE. HE, GHALI, HAD SENT A NUMBER OF MEMORANDA TO  
THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTING A SIMILAR EGYPTIAN MISSION TO  
ETHIOPIA, WHICH MIGHT ULTIMATELY ENABLE GOE TO PLAY A  
MEDIATORY ROLE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. HE HAD HAD NO  
FORMAL RESPONSE, BUT SADAT'S INFORMAL COMMENTS HAD BEEN  
NEGATIVE. THE PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT EGYPT'S  
INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED IF IT ATTEMPTS MEDIATION  
BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA EVEN IF IT WERE ACCEPTABLE TO  
BOTH PARTIES IN A MEDIATOR ROLE. GHALI SAID HE WILL KEEP  
ON TRYING, BUT DOUBTS THAT HE WILL GET FAR.

7. HE HAD NO OTHER COMMENTS TO OFFER AT THIS TIME, BUT WE  
AGREED TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON HORN OF AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, SO, ET, EG, UNSC, OAU, (GHALI, BOUTROS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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